

REMARKS

Introduction

A two-month extension of time to respond to the July 10, 2006 Office Action is hereby respectfully requested. The Director is hereby authorized to charge \$450.00 in payment of the two-month extension-of-time fee to Deposit Account No. 06-1075 (order no.: 099999.0099). A duplicate copy of this paper is enclosed.

Claims 6, 7, 12-16, 31, 32, 37-41, 52, 53, 66, 67, 88, 95, 103, 111, 112, and 118-142 are currently withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1, 26, 50, 55, 56, and 72 have been amended to more clearly define the claimed invention. Claims 2-5, 8-11, 17-25, 27-30, 33-36, 42-49, 51, 54, 57-65, 68-71, 73-87, 89-94, 96-102, 104-110, and 113-117 are also currently pending in this application. No new matter has been added by the amendments to the claims. Applicants reserve the right to claim any lost subject matter in a continuation or divisional application.

Claim 1 has been objected to because of an informality.

Claims 18-20, 22, 43-45, and 47 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 1-5, 8-11, 17, 21, 23-30, 33-36, 42, 46, 48-51, 54-65, 68-87, 89-94, 96-102, 104-110, and 113-117 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Campbell U.S. Patent 4,946,079 (hereinafter "Campbell").

Reconsideration and allowance of this application in light of the following remarks is hereby respectfully requested.

The Objection to the Claims

Claim 1

The Examiner has objected to claim 1 because of an informality. Specifically, the Examiner objected to claim 1 because "the claimed limitation 'a valve assembly' as recited in line 6, should be --the valve assembly-- to prevent double inclusion in the claim," (Office Action, page 2, lines 8-10). Applicants have amended claim 1 as suggested by the Examiner.

Therefore, for at least the foregoing reasons, applicants respectfully submit that the objection to claim 1 is now moot. Applicants respectfully request, therefore, that the objection to claim 1 be withdrawn.

Claims 18-20, 22, 43-45, and 47

The Examiner stated on page 3, lines 9-11 of the Office Action that each of claims 18-20, 22, 43-45, and 47 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants note with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 18-20, 22, 43-45, and 47. Applicants expressly reserve the right to rewrite claims 18-20, 22, 43-45, and 47 in independent form should the base claim ultimately not be allowed.

The Rejections Based on 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-5, 8-11, 17, 21, 23-30, 33-36, 42, 46, 48-51, 54-65, 68-87, 89-94, 96-102, 104-110, and 113-117 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Campbell. Applicants respectfully traverse.

Claims 1-5, 8-11, 17, 21, and 23-25

As defined by applicants' amended independent claim 1, a valve assembly for providing to a user a continuous liquid flow from a container includes a valve housing with a hollow interior and a valve core with a core body. The core body has a liquid-out passageway and an air-back passageway, "wherein said core body has a peripheral surface, and wherein at least one of said liquid-out passageway and said air-back passageway is formed about said core body into said peripheral surface of said core body." For example, an air channel may be "formed into the peripheral surface of core body 34 to form an air-back passageway 44 about core body 34 (see FIGS. 17-37) when core 32 is assembled in housing 12 to form a valve assemble," (applicants' specification, page 20, line 32 through page 21, line 2).

Nowhere does Campbell show or suggest a core body, "wherein said core body has a peripheral surface, and wherein at least one of said liquid-out passageway and said air-back passageway is formed about said core body into said peripheral surface of said core body," as required by applicants' amended independent claim 1. Instead, Campbell merely describes passages 14B and 16B formed through a valve 40, as clearly shown in FIGS. 2 and 3.

Therefore, for at least the foregoing reasons, applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 1, and any claims dependent therefrom, including claims 2-5, 8-11, 17, 21, and 23-25, are allowable over Campbell. Applicants respectfully request, therefore, that the rejection of claims 1-5, 8-11, 17, 21, and 23-25 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) be withdrawn.

Claims 26-30, 33-36, 42, 46, 48, and 49

Applicants respectfully submit that amended independent claim 26, and any claims dependent therefrom, including claims 27-30, 33-36, 42, 46, 48, and 49, are allowable over Campbell for at least the same reasons that applicants' independent claim 1 is patentable over Campbell. Specifically, the valve

assembly of claim 26 includes a core body that has a liquid-out passageway and an air-back passageway, "wherein said core body has a peripheral surface, and wherein at least one of said liquid-out passageway and said air-back passageway is formed about said core body into said peripheral surface of said core body." Applicants respectfully request, therefore, that the rejection of claims 26-30, 33-36, 42, 46, 48, and 49 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) be withdrawn.

Claims 50, 51, 54-65, and 68-71

Applicants respectfully submit that amended independent claim 50, and any claims dependent therefrom, including claims 51, 54-65, and 68-71, are allowable over Campbell for at least the same reasons that applicants' independent claim 1 is patentable over Campbell. Specifically, the valve assembly of claim 50 includes a core body for movement within a hollow interior for providing a liquid-out passageway and an air-back passageway, "wherein said core body has a peripheral surface, and wherein at least one of said liquid-out passageway and said air-back passageway is formed about said core body into said peripheral surface of said core body." Applicants respectfully request, therefore, that the rejection of claims 50, 51, 54-65, and 68-71 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) be withdrawn.

Claims 72-87, 89-94, 96-102, 104-110, and 113-117

Applicants respectfully submit that amended independent claim 72, and any claims dependent therefrom, including claims 73-87, 89-94, 96-102, 104-110, and 113-117, are allowable over Campbell for at least the same reasons that applicants' independent claim 1 is patentable over Campbell. Specifically, the valve assembly of claim 72 includes a core body that moves within a hollow interior to register a liquid-out passageway and to register an air-back passageway, "wherein said core body has a peripheral surface, and wherein at least one of said liquid-out passageway and said air-back passageway is formed about said core body into said peripheral surface of said core body." Applicants respectfully

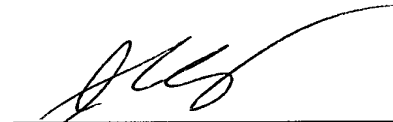
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request, therefore, that the rejection of claims 72-87, 89-94, 96-102, 104-110, and 113-117 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) be withdrawn.

Conclusion

The foregoing demonstrates that each of applicants' claims are allowable. This application is therefore in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are accordingly respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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